

# MINUTES

## INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

**June 18<sup>th</sup> 2009, 10am (EDT)**

**Holiday Inn North**

**Monte Carlo Room**

**3850 Depauw Blvd**

**Indpls IN 46268**

**317-872-9790**

**A. BOARD CALLED TO ORDER 10:00 am**

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present

James Bennett in for Fire Marshal

Thomas Hanify (10:15am)

Jack Kerney Sr

Jerry Nulliner

Bradley Thatcher

Candice Ashby

Ab Crosby

Jeff Hayes

Absent

Darrick Scott

**C. MINUTES REPORT FROM April 27, 2009**

Jeff Hayes made a motion to approve. Ab Crosby seconded.

Motion passed.

**D. VARIANCES**

1. Lionel Persinger III requested variances for the following:

*Fire Officer II*  
*Fire Officer III*  
*Fire Officer IV*

The request is based on an Ivy Tech Degree of Associate in Applied Science in Public Safety, December 1998. Staff recommends denial due to the age of the degree and no continued education listed

Bradley Thatcher made a motion to deny the request. James Bennett seconded. Motion passed.

*Hazardous Material Awareness*  
*Hazardous Material Operations*

Ivy Tech 64 hour course, August 1998, Brownsburg FD class, Hazardous Material, Operations level, May 1993; OSHA 9 hour course Hazmat Operations Level September 1992; Heritage Group Safety, Hazwoper 8 hour course, October 2002. Staff recommends denial. It has been 7 years since the last refresher course, and there has been two (2) NFPA changes since 2002.

Ab Crosby made a motion to deny. Jack Kerney seconded. Motion passed.

*Investigator*

Ivy Tech, 64 hour course December 1996  
Staff recommends denial due to no continued education since 1996.

James Bennett made a motion to deny. Bradley Thatcher seconded. Motion passed.

*Rope Rescue Operations*  
*Rope Rescue Technician*

Course taught by Progressive Rescue Technician I/II (40 hour course) August 2003

Staff recommends approval. The board has approved this program in the past as having met the standard.

James Bennett made a motion to approve. Ab Crosby seconded. Motion passed.

*Inspector I*

*Inspector II*

*Inspector III*

Ivy Tech course, Fire Prevention and Inspection, May 1997

Staff recommends denial. No continued education since 1997.

Ab Crosby made a motion to deny. Candice Ashby seconded. Motion passed.

2. Jonathan P. Voss requested a variance for Firefighter I. He is a certified firefighter in the state of Ohio. Staff recommends approval upon validation of Basic Firefighter training.

James Bennett made a motion to approve upon Basic Firefighter Training. Ab Crosby seconded. Motion passed.

3. William Farhat requested a variance for Fire Officer IV, based on employment and Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Safety. Staff recommends denial. We have the written test in place. The transcripts do not show enough fire training to meet the requirements for certification.

Jack Kerney made a motion to deny. James Bennett seconded. Motion passed.

The following requested variances for Hazardous Material Awareness and Operations based on being certified as Hazardous Material Technician. They were certified technician level prior to there being the awareness and operations levels. Technician level exceeds the requirements for Hazmat Awareness and Operations.

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4. Steven Kerckhove     | 5. David Koehler      |
| 6. Kevin Kolber         | 7. James Lopez        |
| 8. Gregory Mack         | 9. Brandon May        |
| 10. Robert Means        | 11. Edwin Meyer       |
| 12. Edward Palicki Jr   | 13. Thomas Pennino    |
| 14. Douglas Salyer      | 15. Robert Severeid   |
| 16. Thomas Sheets       | 17. Leon Stein        |
| 18. Joseph Wagner       | 19. Scot Webber       |
| 20. Jon Aranowski       | 21. Richard Bourdon   |
| 22. Eddie Hernandez     | 23. Mark Catanzarite  |
| 24. Michael Damiano     | 25. Frederick Jaronik |
| 26. Michael Filipski    | 27. Rudolph Jimenez   |
| 28. Robert Alexander    | 29. Allan Bittner     |
| 30. Ronald Campbell     | 31. Keith Current     |
| 32. Michael Gilkey      | 33. Robert Hames      |
| 34. Donald Hoffman      | 35. Dennis Isaac      |
| 36. Kenny Jackson       | 37. Daniel Johnson    |
| 38. Michael Kane        | 39. Greg Main         |
| 40. James Mastison      | 41. Keith Otmann      |
| 42. James W Pauli       | 43. Greg Russell      |
| 44. Jesse Storey        | 45. Cliff Weaver      |
| 46. Bryan Will          | 47. Curt Zenthoefer   |
| 48. Ken Zuber           | 49. Paul Anslinger    |
| 50. Brett Bozarth       | 51. Robert Doerr      |
| 52. Ray Goff            | 53. Dan Grimm         |
| 54. Daniel Hauschild    | 55. Richard Howard    |
| 56. Keith Jarboe        | 57. Tom Shadrick      |
| 58. Syl Stofleth        | 59. Larry Wildt       |
| 60. Charles Hertzberger | 61. James Wolf        |
| 62. Larry Zuber         | 63. Steve Bogard      |
| 64. Edward Haury        | 65. Tony Knight       |
| 66. Rick Whitehouse     | 67. Dean Haas         |
| 68. Mick Maddox         | 69. Mike Connelly     |
| 70. Sean Farmer         | 71. Scott Jordan      |
| 72. Gary Barr           | 73. James Pfister     |
| 74. Roger Poweless      | 75. Ronald Goedde     |
| 76. Thomas Harvey       | 77. Tony Hertweck     |
| 78. Ronald Inkenbrandt  | 79. Richard Scheller  |
| 80. Bruce Woodward      | 81. Robert Reisz      |
| 82. Jerry Cavins        | 83. Edward Gunn       |

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 84. Don Brown           | 85. J.C. Land           |
| 86. Michael Larson      | 87. Douglas Tension Jr. |
| 88. Gregory Lehman      | 89. Alfred Lindsey      |
| 90. Brett Seib          | 91. Lester Seib Jr.     |
| 92. Michael Tooley      | 93. John G. Holland     |
| 94. Kevin Miller        | 95. Jeffrey Crowe       |
| 96. Michael Dickinson   | 97. Jon Grubb           |
| 98. Joey Jones          | 99. Kenneth Koontz      |
| 100. Jon Laidlaw        | 101. Bradley Lauderdale |
| 102. John Ramsey        | 103. Robert Shipman     |
| 104. Klint Willis       | 105. John Cline         |
| 106. Marc Fehrenbacher  | 107. James Lis          |
| 108. Randall Rankin     | 109. Benjamin Ward      |
| 110. Thomas Zenthoefler | 111. Michael Bacon      |
| 112. Kirk Kuhnel        | 113. Benjamin Pfeffer   |
| 114. Robert Ralph       | 115. Michael Russler    |
| 116. John Ulrich        | 117. Matthew Watson     |
| 118. Scott Weber        | 119. Erick Jamison      |
| 120. Shawn Willis       | 121. David Jones        |
| 122. Jerry Steckler     | 123. William Hess       |
| 124. Edward Parker      | 125. Robert Stolz       |
| 126. Mark Dietsch       | 127. Daniel Kissel      |
| 128. Stevie Mcdaniel    | 129. John Riggs         |
| 130. Jason Howell       | 131. Larry Paul         |
| 132. Richard Rippy      |                         |

Jack Kerney made a motion to approve. Jeff Hayes seconded.  
Motion passed.

133. Richard Dillon                      134. Edward King and  
135. Edward Yochum  
requested a variance for Driver Operator Mobile Water Supply.  
They put a course together using the NFPA 1002 Standard and  
IFSTA Pumping Apparatus Driver/Operator Handbook. They  
used 1 practical skill supplied by Kentucky to round out the  
course.

Staff recommends denial. No information was submitted  
showing the training they themselves completed for this  
certification.

Edward King spoke to the Board and explained what they had done, the information that they had obtained. Training was based on Driver Operator Pumper. We are certified and we have taught the pumper at the University. We went on the DOD web site and created a test for this.

Bradley Thatcher made a motion to approve based on the testimony given. Jeff Hayes seconded. Motion passed.

**E. APPEAL REQUESTS**

No report at this time. Judge Teegarden retired on May 30<sup>th</sup> and the Board wants to thank the Judge for the 12 years of service with the Fire Board.

**F. STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORT- JAMES GREESON**

Jim Bennett sat in for the fire Marshal. James Greeson is in the State of Washington at this time with the National Association of State Fire Marshals. If anyone has any questions I will be glad to answer them. No questions were asked.

**G. HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING DIVISION REPORT; DIRECTOR BRADLEY THATCHER.**

Through state funding of 08-09 we have certified 5565 firefighters, These are courses scheduled through the training councils; 1629 certified through Federal grants; \$125000 was used for the driver simulator outside; \$486,000 for structure collapse; \$150,000 tech rescue; \$150,000 for HMA/ WMD, and \$ 24,000 NFA grant. This gives you an idea of what we are doing with state and fed \$\$.

Legislative SB 270 effective 07-01, increases the members from 11 to 13 on the EMS Commission.

Tom Hanify spoke about SB1428. This bill states that career firefighters after 1 year have to be certified firefighter ½. You can file for extensions, with the board. Last year I spoke with several of you wanting the same thing for volunteers, except you wanted 2 years, so if you still want this, get with me. We

have several pieces of legislation. Special session is going on right now. They are down there fighting with each other.

Bradley Thatcher - we are looking for the best way to support legislation. We put out a questionnaire yesterday about a state fire academy. We are looking to see if there is even support for something like this. We will be putting this out to the volunteer firefighters shortly, and we encourage you to complete this and submit it.

I want to introduce two new staff members, David Probo, from South Carolina, he is with the firefighter training, and Karri Dillon is our new test manager.

- Are there any penalties if you do not comply with the firefighter ½ law? No. Extensions can be granted for just about any reason.

#### **H. CERTIFICATION BRANCH CHIEF, JOHN BUCKMAN**

John is not available, and Jim Abraham spoke for him.

1. We are creating a task force to determine level of discipline for violation of rules. The task force would be made up of 13 members consisting of 3 Union members, 3 Fire Chief Assoc members, 3 Volunteer Firefighters, 3 Instructor Assoc members and 1 staff member.  
Legal council advises the definition of probation needs to be a rule instead of a policy. The meetings need to be posted, if people are gathering in a place to discuss this.
2. Chad Anspach audit letter.  
Chad submitted exactly what we are looking for. His documentation shows that the evaluator actually wrote notes and it shows that this was actually graded, he wrote comments made on paper as practicals were being completed.
3. Flora Investigation – Jim Abraham

This involved a discrepancy in testing results. The investigation has been completed. A letter has been sent and the instructor's certification has been suspended for 6 months. Jerry Nulliner asked for a copy of any correspondence involved on this.

4. Prerequisite for testing

- Bradley Thatcher - This is dealing with underage students that are not able to be certified because they are not 18 years of age. Career centers are asking us to do a study on the impact of this. It is creating a problem with students. Jeff Hayes – prior to rule change, anyone that had not met the prerequisite could still challenge the written test. They used to be able to take the written/practical testing and the certification held until they are 18 years of age.

The board would have to create a rule stating the procedure on keeping records on this. The other issue is that rule states that you cannot test unless all prerequisites have been completed. This would also have to be looked at. Currently there is no way for us to keep track of this. Our software would not allow for this. This would have a tremendous fiscal impact for us to add this to our program. We are on reduced staff and strict budgets right now and we simply cannot accommodate this at this time. The numbers I quoted are just fire certifications. This is not taking into consideration the EMS certifications or the blaster certifications. We cannot at this time to replace any staff that leaves and we are doing a balancing act right now. I am requesting a status quo right now and not change anything at this point.

- Steve Cavalari – ESC Area 31, the opinion that you are giving right now, will affect about 500 students. We are trying to increase the entry level training into Firefighter ½ and if you continue as is, you are negating everything that we are trying to do. This cannot wait, it has to happen soon. We start school August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Bradley Thatcher – as I understand this, the real issue is the rule that states you have to be 18 in order to take a

written test. This is a rule change, and that cannot happen for a year if we decide to change this. Our concern is the language that is in the rule and what it would need to say. The board needs a little more information on paper, so that we can study this. We will have a report by the July 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

- Steve Cavalari – some of the responsibility has to fall back on the training facility. If you let a 15 year old to train, then it would be our responsibility to check the age of these kids.
- Tom Hanify – why cannot these issues be handled with a variance in the interim. If a student wants to take a test, he can file for a variance in order to take the written test. There are 17 institutions around the state that have this problem. They can file for a variance in order to take the written test.

Mara Snyder – if we just start doing variances, we will not identify the problem. The form letter that is submitted for variance needs to have the age of the student. NO birth date and NO ss#'s.

- Concern – we are going to pack this board with variances and we are worrying about 16-17 year olds, when we have fire departments that have 34 year olds waiting 6-8 weeks for certification. Where is that going to leave them? At one time certifications were down to 2 weeks out and now we are 6-10 weeks out. It is tough to keep these people waiting as it is. When are we going to see certifications down to a reasonable time frame. It is time for someone to address the problem and fix it before we move on to something else.
- Jim Abraham – we have gone through several changes in the last few months and some of them are starting to pay off. The last two weeks of May we processed 800 certifications and the first two weeks of June we have processed over 3500 certifications. The changes are starting to pay off. There are several things that you can do to help this process. Some of the problems that we have are that paperwork was not included, the student was not eligible to take exam, we are spending our time

on people that are not even eligible for certification and people that are eligible, are sitting there waiting.

5. Effective July 14, 2009, testing voided  
We have been dealing with tests that should not have been given. We will no longer process these tests. We are spending so much time on students that are not even eligible for certifications. This has become a big issue here.
  - Why are we spending all this time for the students that are not qualified if we are voiding there tests anyway. Seems to be wasting a lot of time on not qualified when the qualified are waiting in line for there turn at certification.
  - Something else to consider, we hire firefighters, they are on our payroll, and we cannot use them because we are waiting 8 weeks for them to get certification.
  - Letters being received stating that you passed Firefighter ½, but you do not meet the mandatory prerequisite. Jim Abraham requested a copy of one of these letters. This office no longer issues this type of letter.
6. Letter from Sharon & Gary Earl, pipeline explosion.  
This is a letter that is a FYI only. This will be passed onto the Fire Marshal. This is dealing with the conduct of the firefighters at a gas line explosion incident.

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS**  
**No report at this time**

**J. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Definition of Probation,  
This is will be part of the task force and recommendations will be submitted to the board.
2. Status of NFPA standards committee  
Dave Probo is starting a committee to look at the NFPA standards and see what we need to adopt and what we do not. Also, we need to look at some of the practicals that are included in the standards. People will be divided up

into work groups and then they can bring their recommendations to the committee. The work groups will look at the standard chapter by chapter to see what we need to adopt and what we do not.

We cannot do an automatic update whenever there is a standard change because that would require a statute change. Dave Probo has had 36 people respond so far. If you want to be in these groups, contact Dave Probo at the State Fire Training Division.

3. Status of the FOST written/practical exams for pilot program.

Some groups have had some problems with the practical on line technical issues. NFA is working with us to provide CD's to give so that you will not have to go on line to complete the practical portion of these. We have cleaned up the instructions, and so far, we have had a good feedback on this program. The instructor's and the students all seem to like the format of this new program. Ivan Nevil, I was proctor and lead evaluator on one of these programs, my thoughts is that the NFA is a good program, and I would like to see if we cannot put this on our CD's and set up the practicals that way. There are areas of the state that high speed internet is touch and go, and that is required for this, so if NFA can put this on a CD that would work very well for us.

## **K. NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

## **N. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:46 am**

The Board would like to thank the IVFA, for having us,

**Next Meeting:  
July 27, 2009 6pm (EDT)  
Terre Haute FD  
28 s 9<sup>th</sup> St  
Terre Haute IN 47807  
812-234-8653**

